

EXHIBIT A

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

IN RE NEW ENGLAND COMPOUNDING
PHARMACY, INC. PRODUCTS
LIABILITY LITIGATION

MDL No. 2419
Dkt. No. 1:13-md-2419 (RWZ)

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

All Actions

**MDL Order No. 9B
ORDER REGARDING COMMON ISSUE DISCOVERY**

May ___, 2015

This Amended Order Regarding Common Issue Discovery is intended to amend and supplement the Court's previous MDL Order Nos. 9 and 9B¹ ("Order No. 9") and to provide a reasonable timetable for discovery on Common Issues² as it relates to those defendants who currently have cases pending in the MDL and are not subject to a proposed settlement pending in the bankruptcy court. This Order is entered in response to the parties' various motions regarding a discovery schedule, and after careful consideration of the arguments made by all parties.

This Order amends Order No. 9 by (i) extending the deadline for Common Issue discovery as to the Premier³ and Box Hill Defendants,⁴ and (ii) temporarily staying all deadlines for

¹ See *In Re: New England Compounding Pharmacy Cases Litigation*, MDL No. 13-02419-RWZ, Dkts. No. 1425 and 1528 (September 18, 2014, November 10, 2014).

² A "Common Issue" for purposes of this Order means an issue that pertains to all or a substantial number of cases in the Multidistrict Litigation ("MDL"). Examples of Common Issues include the scope and amount of Defendants' insurance coverage available to satisfy claims made or a parent company's liability for a subsidiary company's conduct. A "Case Specific Issue" is an issue that pertains to a single case or a small number of cases. Examples of Case-Specific Issues include the amount of physical harm an individual patient suffered as a result of Defendants' alleged wrongdoing or statements made by Defendants to a particular Plaintiff.

³ "Premier Defendants" includes Premier Orthopedic Associates Surgical Ctr., Premier Orthopedics Associates Surgical Center, LLC, Premier Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Associates of South Jersey, LLC, d/b/a Premier Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Associates, Kimberly Yvette Smith, M.D., a/k/a Kimberly Yvette Smith-Martin, M.D., Thomas Dwyer, M.D., Richard C. DiVerniero, M.D., John Catalano, M.D., and Jeffrey Strauss, M.D.

⁴ "Box Hill Defendants" includes Box Hill Surgery Systems, LLC, Ritu T. Bhambhani, M.D., and Ritu T. Bhambhani, M.D., LLC.

completing common discovery from those Clinic Related Defendants⁵ with five or fewer filed actions currently pending against them in the MDL. Otherwise, the deadlines and other matters originally set forth in Order No. 9 remain in effect.

This order supplements Order No. 9 by (i) implementing a schedule for the bellwether process relating to the St. Thomas and Tennessee Clinic Defendants,⁶ and (ii) adding to the previous schedule as to the Premier and Box Hill related defendants deadlines for all pre-trial matters up through trial, in accordance with the separate schedules set forth herein.

This order does not alter in any way the deadline for completing Common Issue discovery from the Affiliated Defendants⁷ or any National Defendants⁸ (Affiliated Defendants and National Defendants are referred to collectively as “Settling Defendants”) or any third party from whom discovery is sought, by any party. The schedule as to discovery against Settling Defendants and third parties remains as previously set forth in the Court’s original Order No. 9 (except that discovery against New England Compounding Pharmacy, Inc. (“NECC”) and the Settling Defendants is limited in accordance with the Court’s previous order regarding such discovery).⁹

Pursuant to Rule 16(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Local Rules 16.1(F) and 16.6, it is hereby ORDERED that:

⁵ “Clinic Related Defendants” refers to clinics/hospitals and their employees, physicians, nurses, staff, and affiliated companies that administered the Contaminated NECC pharmaceuticals that have been named as defendants in the MDL.

⁶ “Saint Thomas Defendants” include Saint Thomas Outpatient Neurosurgical Center, LLC, Howell Allen Clinic, PC, John Culclasure, MD, Debra Schamberg, RN, Vaughan Allen, MD, Saint Thomas West Hospital, formerly known as St. Thomas Hospital, Saint Thomas Network, and Saint Thomas Health.

⁷ “Affiliated Defendants” refers to entities or individuals affiliated with NECC including Barry Cadden, Lisa Cadden, Doug Conigliaro, Carla Conigliaro, Gregory Conigliaro, Glenn Chin, Alaurus Pharmaceutical, LLC, Ameridose, LLC, GDC Properties Management, Inc., Medical Sales Management, and Medical Sales Management SW.

⁸ “National Defendants” refers to UniFirst Corporation, Inc., Liberty, ARL and Victory.

⁹ On October 9, 2014, upon motion of Paul D. Moore, the chapter 11 trustee of NECC, the Court entered an order limiting discovery and otherwise staying these proceedings with respect to NECC insiders and related settling parties (Dkt. No. 1481).

1. Applicability

This Order shall govern cases transferred to this Court by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation pursuant to its order of February 12, 2013, entitled New England Compounding Pharmacy, Inc. Products Liability Litigation, any tag-along actions transferred by the Panel after that date, and any related actions previously assigned to this Court.

Although the time for participation in the Court ordered mediation program has expired, and no parties are currently participating in court-ordered mediation, if a party wishes to obtain a modification of the schedules set forth herein in order to mediate any remaining dispute, something encouraged by this Court, the parties are to file a notice of mediation with this Court along with their proposed schedule modification.

2. St. Thomas Defendants

The original deadlines set forth in Order No. 9 remain in effect as they relate to the Saint Thomas cases. Having considered the submissions by the parties concerning the potential bellwether process, the Court supplements the original schedule set forth in Order No. 9 to add dates related to the bellwether selection process and sets forth additional dates related to the cases concerning the Saint Thomas cases below:

Event	Deadlines
Initial Trial Pool Cases selection exchanged in writing between the parties	≤ 10 days after entry of Order
Deadline for Parties to file Notice of Position on Venue and <i>Lexecon Inc. v. Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach</i>	≤ 15 days after entry of Order
Completion of all Case-Specific fact discovery for Initial Trial Pool cases	08/01/2015
Parties shall file submissions as to the order in which the eight Initial Trial Pool Cases should	08/15/2015

be tried and/or remanded to the transferor courts. The Parties are directed to file briefs, not to exceed 5 pages, with reason for selections and order.	
Court will select the order in which the Initial Trial Pool Cases will be tried and/or remanded, designate the first 2 cases to be tried and/or remanded,	09/01/2015
Parties shall disclose experts who will testify as to Case-Specific Issues for the First Two Trial Case Picks along with at least three proposed deposition dates for each expert.	09/10/2015
Parties shall disclose rebuttal Case-Specific Experts for the First Two Trial Case Picks.	09/24/2015
Parties shall complete depositions of Case-Specific Issues experts (which will begin after rebuttal reports, if any, are served)	10/30/2015
Case-Specific dispositive motions and <i>Daubert</i> motions filed	11/06/2015
Oppositions to Case-Specific dispositive motions and <i>Daubert</i> motions filed	11/20/2015
Replies to Case-Specific dispositive motions and <i>Daubert</i> motions filed	12/02/2015
Hearings on case-specific dispositive motions and <i>Daubert</i> motions	As determined by the Court
Cases shall be trial-ready	12/14/2015

Additional details concerning the bellwether selection process are set forth in a separate order of the Court.

3. Premier Defendants

Given the submissions by the PSC and the Premier Defendants and the current status of discovery concerning cases involving the Premier Defendants, the Court believes an extension of discovery dates originally set forth in CMO 9 is warranted. Accordingly, the Court sets the

following schedule related to all pre-trial matters in claims against Premier Defendants pending in the MDL:

Event	Deadlines
Close of Common Fact Discovery; Meet and confer on potential bellwether process	11/15/15
Close of Case Specific Bellwether Discovery	1/15/16
Initial Expert Disclosures and Proffer of Deposition Dates	1/31/16
Rebuttal Expert Disclosures and Proffer of Deposition Dates	4/4/16
Deadline For Expert Depositions	4/23/16
Dispositive Motions and <i>Daubert</i> Motions filed	5/21/16
Oppositions to Dispositive Motions and <i>Daubert</i> Motions filed	6/5/16
Replies in Support of Dispositive Motions and <i>Daubert</i> Motions filed	6/19/16
Hearing on Dispositive Motions and <i>Daubert</i> Motions	7/2/16
Final Pre-Trial Hearing	7/25/16
Cases are Trial Ready	8/1/16

4. Box Hill Defendants

Given the submissions by the PSC and the Box Hill Defendants and the current status of discovery concerning cases involving the Box Hill Defendants, the Court believes an extension of discovery dates originally set forth in CMO 9 is warranted. Accordingly, the Court sets the

following schedule related to all pre-trial matters in claims against Box Hill Defendants pending in the MDL:

Event	Deadline
Close of Common and Case Specific Bellwether Discovery	1/22/16
Initial Expert Disclosures and Proffer of Deposition Dates	2/22/16
Rebuttal Expert Disclosures and Proffer of Deposition Dates	3/23/16
Deadline For Expert Depositions	5/23/16
Dispositive Motions and <i>Daubert</i> Motions	6/22/16
Oppositions to Dispositive Motions and <i>Daubert</i> Motions	7/7/16
Replies in Support of Dispositive Motions and <i>Daubert</i> Motions	7/22/16
Hearing on Dispositive Motions and <i>Daubert</i> Motions	8/8/16
Final Pre-Trial Hearing	9/7/16
Cases are Trial Ready	10/3/16

5. Other Clinic Related Defendants

All discovery in any action against Clinic Related Defendants with five or fewer cases¹⁰ against them in this Court as of the date of this Order is stayed until December 31, 2015, with the exception of discovery of Settling Defendants and third parties. The stay of discovery as to these Clinic Related Defendants does not affect Plaintiffs' obligation to complete initial disclosures and

¹⁰ See Exhibit 1, identifying specific Clinic Related Defendants subject to this order.

Plaintiff Profile Forms (“PPF”) and authorizations pursuant to this Order or Defendants’ obligation to complete initial disclosure and any defendant profile form this Court enters. Nor does the stay affect all parties’ obligations to participate in the discovery related to Settling Defendants or third parties. Once the stay of discovery as to Clinic Related Defendants with five or fewer cases pending against them is lifted, Plaintiffs and Clinic Related Defendants in those actions will provide a proposed schedule and briefing concerning the completion of all pre-trial matters in those actions.

6. Complete Case Schedule

For the convenience of all parties, and the Court, the Court sets forth below a complete schedule as relates to the matters affected by this Order:

Date	TN Defendants	Premier Defendants	Box Hill Defendants
06/15/2015	<i>All Defs:</i> Close of Common Fact Discovery as to settling defendants	<i>All Defs:</i> Close of Common Fact Discovery as to settling defendants	<i>All Defs:</i> Close of Common Fact Discovery as to settling defendants
06/15/2015	<i>St. Thomas:</i> Close of Common Fact Discovery as to St. Thomas and Specialty Surgery defendants		
no later than 10 days after entry of Order re bellwether	<i>St. Thomas:</i> Initial trial pool cases selection exchanged in writing with opposing counsel		
no later than 15 days after entry of Order re bellwether	<i>St. Thomas:</i> Parties shall file with the Court a Notice of Position on Venue and <i>Lexecon Inc. v. Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach</i>		
08/01/2015	<i>St. Thomas:</i> Parties shall complete all Case-Specific fact discovery for Initial Trial Pool cases		

Date	TN Defendants	Premier Defendants	Box Hill Defendants
08/15/2015	<i>St. Thomas:</i> Parties shall file submissions as to the order in which the eight Initial Trial Pool Cases should be tried and/or remanded to the transferor courts		
09/1/2015	<i>St. Thomas:</i> Court will select the order in which the Initial Trial Pool Cases will be tried and/or remanded, designate the first two cases to be tried and/or remanded		
09/10/2015	<i>St. Thomas:</i> Parties shall disclose experts who will testify as to Case-Specific Issues for the First Two Trial Case Picks along with at least three proposed deposition dates for each expert		
09/24/2015	<i>St. Thomas:</i> Parties shall disclose rebuttal Case-Specific Experts for the First Two Trial Case Picks		
10/30/2015	<i>St. Thomas:</i> Parties shall complete depositions of Case-Specific Issues experts (which will begin after rebuttal reports, if any, are served)		
11/06/2015	<i>St. Thomas:</i> Parties shall file any case-specific dispositive motions and <i>Daubert</i> motions		
11/15/2015		<i>Premier:</i> Close of common fact discovery; meet and confer on potential bellwether process	
11/20/2015	<i>St. Thomas:</i> Parties shall file any oppositions to case-specific dispositive motions and <i>Daubert</i> motions		
12/02/2015	<i>St. Thomas:</i> Parties shall file any replies in support of case-specific dispositive motions and <i>Daubert</i> motion		

Date	TN Defendants	Premier Defendants	Box Hill Defendants
To be set by separate order	<i>St. Thomas:</i> Hearings on case-specific dispositive motions and <i>Daubert</i> motions		
12/14/2015	<i>St. Thomas:</i> Cases shall be trial-ready		
1/15/2016		<i>Premier:</i> Close of case specific bellwether case discovery	
1/22/2016			<i>Box Hill:</i> Close of common issue and case specific fact discovery
1/31/2016		<i>Premier:</i> Initial expert disclosures and proffer of deposition	
2/22/2016			<i>Box Hill:</i> initial expert disclosures and proffer of deposition dates
3/23/2016			<i>Box Hill:</i> rebuttal expert disclosures and proffer of deposition dates
4/4/2016		<i>Premier:</i> Rebuttal expert disclosures and proffer of deposition dates	
4/23/2016		<i>Premier:</i> Deadline for expert depositions	
5/21/2016		<i>Premier:</i> Dispositive motions and <i>Daubert</i> motions filed	
5/23/2016			<i>Box Hill:</i> Deadline for expert depositions
6/5/2016		<i>Premier:</i> Oppositions to dispositive motions and <i>Daubert</i> motions	
6/19/2016		<i>Premier:</i> Replies in support of dispositive motions and <i>Daubert</i> motions	
6/22/2016			<i>Box Hill:</i> Dispositive motions and <i>Daubert</i> motions filed

Date	TN Defendants	Premier Defendants	Box Hill Defendants
To be set by separate order		<i>Premier:</i> Hearing on dispositive motions and Daubert motions	
7/7/2016			<i>Box Hill:</i> Oppositions to dispositive motions and Daubert motions filed
7/22/2016			<i>Box Hill:</i> Replies in Support of Dispositive Motions and Daubert Motions
To be set by separate order		<i>Premier:</i> Final pretrial hearing	
8/1/2016		<i>Premier:</i> Trial (or trial ready)	
To be set by separate order			<i>Box Hill:</i> Hearing on dispositive motions and Daubert motions
9/7/2016			<i>Box Hill:</i> Final pretrial hearing
10/3/2016			<i>Box Hill:</i> Trial (or trial ready)

So Ordered.

JENNIFER C. BOAL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Clinic Related Defendant with 5 or Fewer Cases as of March 24, 2015

<u>Clinic Related Defendant</u>	<u>Case Count</u>
Advanced Pain & Anesthesia Consultants, PC	4
Cincinnati Pain Management Consultants, Inc.	4
DBMJ Rehabilitation Services, PLLC	2
BKC Pain Specialists, LLC	3
PCA Pain Care Specialists	3
High Point Surgical Ctr.	3
BKC Pain Specialists	2
MAPS	2
Encino Outpatient Surgery Center	1
Glaser Pain Institute	1
Ocean State Pain Management	2
Anonymous Health Care Provider 1	2
Sunrise Hospital and Medical	2
Anonymous Health Care Provider 1	1
Brookwood Medical Center	1
Dallas Back Pain	1
Dr. O'Connell's Pain Care Centers, Inc.	1
Fullerton Orthopaedic Surgery Medical Group	1
Hahnemann University Hospital	1
High Point Regional Health	1
Marion Pain Management Center, Inc.	1
Nazareth Hospital	1
Sequoia Surgery Center	1
Wellspring Pain Solutions Clinic	1